

The Sun

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The Inspectors Confess.

If the present inspectors of police were doing their work as well as it could be done, the legislation advocated by Commissioner Bingham would cause them no uneasiness. They would realize that they would not be disturbed in their jobs, and that the authority sought by the Commissioner would be used only to maintain them in the places they now occupy.

The opposition of the inspectors to the pending bill is, in fact, a complete confession of their inefficiency, and the strongest of arguments in favor of its enactment. Not only does the Commissioner allege their incompetence; not only does he receive the support of all disinterested observers of the police situation, but his charges are supported and confirmed by the very men against whom they are directed.

The question for the Legislature to answer is, therefore, Shall the old system, so long in operation, be continued because its beneficiaries want to hold on to the good thing they have, or shall a new arrangement that promises to remedy some of the faults of the old be adopted? In another form this question is, Shall the Police Department be governed by the city, or shall the city be governed by the Police Department?

The Main Spring.

From a source entitled to respect, namely, the headquarters of our excellent professional contemporary the *Engineering Magazine*, we get this communication:

"To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Your editorial this morning, touching Panama, leads inevitably to the conclusion that the success of the canal may be vitally dependent upon the time within which it may be finished and opened to transatlantic traffic, in competition with this new rail route. Time of completion is in turn dependent chiefly upon cost of construction."

"Would it not be interesting to look into the record of the army engineers for expedition in finishing work under their charge? Take any important case at random. The improvements in and near Boston Harbor might do, possibly our own Ambrose Channel would afford an instructive instance. Then set in parallel with it the time and cost data of any characteristic piece of engineering done by good contractors under civil supervision: the Pennsylvania and Hudson tunnels, which together aggregate a far more expensive and difficult problem than the Panama Canal, for instance. The subway construction is large enough to furnish a measuring rod for comparative purposes. Consider fairly the probabilities of military engineering in charge of a project like the canal, and see if it is really expedient for the country."

"Remember also that the army engineers have always employed contractors. I do not recall a single undertaking of any moment from an engineering point of view which they have performed directly with Government labor. Panama would be a hazardous place to try a 'prentice job' of that kind. We should still have the contract system, though it would be under military instead of civil administration."

"The whole training of the civil engineer drives him to the fact that he must turn out work that pays his employer. He cannot succeed nor advance in his profession unless he keeps this consideration foremost. The whole training of the military engineer teaches him that he must obey orders and follow settled routine. Commercial considerations do not enter into the mind of his officers. The command of his ranking officers outweighs any dictate of economy, and orders from Washington overrule the laws of nature. It is the military system, and proved by experience best in its field—which is not properly civil work of construction."

"It is undoubtedly true that civil engineers of reputation, if placed in charge at Panama, will successfully resign when they are required to sacrifice the real interests of the work, of national economy and of professional honor to political expediency or Administrative whim. It is equally true that army engineers, knowing (and properly) the higher law than obedience to orders, will stay at Panama and carry out any plans directed from Washington. They may recommend, but they will not dare insist upon, plans different from those of their superiors. Which policy is likely to serve best the interests of the nation?"

"NEW YORK, March 6."
CHARLES B. GOINGS.

Without attempting to discuss the justice or to dispute the accuracy of this estimate of the capacity of the army engineer for prompt and energetic execution of the work assigned to him, we venture to call Mr. GOINGS' attention to one circumstance that is of some little importance.

The responsibility for the construction and completion of the Panama Canal, and therefore for the speed of its construction and the time of its completion, is precisely where it has been ever since the enactment of the so-called Spooner law of June 28, 1902.

Under that law it is the President of the United States, through the Isthmian Canal Commission, who is directed to cause to be excavated, constructed and completed a canal from the Caribbean to the Pacific. No other person is directed to impart propulsive energy to the job. No other person is empowered to push it, to rush it, to hustle it. It is the President's own official and personal energy that must measure the rapidity of execution; and in recognition of his undivided responsibility in this regard the law proceeds to authorize him "for the purposes aforesaid to employ such persons as he may deem necessary, and to fix their compensation." In a section a little further along the law does more than that. It specifically authorizes the President, through the Isthmian Canal Commission, "to employ in said service any of the engineers of the United States Army, at his discretion, and likewise to

employ any engineers in civil life, at his discretion."

So our esteemed correspondent will perceive that there has been no change in the mainspring of the enterprise, and can be no change while the law stands as it is. The only change has been in the style of the escapement, so to speak, through which the energy imparted from Washington finds expression at the actual scene of excavation. The choice of agents is absolutely within the President's discretion. He has tried engineers from civil life, as the statute permits, and now he is going to try engineers from the army, as the law permits. There is no change of policy, only a change of instruments.

As to the wisdom of this change of instruments, every intelligent critic like Mr. GOINGS is entitled to have his own opinion.

We may say, however, referring to the last paragraphs of his letter, printed above, that if the attitude of the civil engineers already employed has been to consider orders from Washington as the dictates of "political expediency" or the manifestation of "Administrative whim," and if their practice has been not only to recommend but to "insist on plans different from those of their superiors," it is not beyond our comprehension that it may be to Mr. ROOSEVELT a grateful and refreshing change to exercise his option of employing engineers trained to "obey orders and follow settled routine."

Official Zeal at Washington.

The effect of the Exalted Example is particularly, not to say painfully, evident in Washington. The Government of that capital happens to reside in three Commissioners appointed by the President. The President has abundantly declared himself as the chief pursuer and most inveterate enemy of the Octopus. Naturally the District Commissioners tune up to the compelling keynote, and Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart bark in unison at the wicked railroads.

They are building a new union station on Capitol Hill. The railway companies are spending millions in the enterprise. The completed station will be a wonder of beauty and a miracle of convenience and expedition. But official Washington, together with its dependent retinue and complacent press, is disposed to believe that it will give pleasure in high quarters to take another and still shrewder twist upon the tail of railroad insolence. Hence the proposition that all coal burning locomotives hauling trains into the capital shall be halted at some proper distance and give way to electrical engines, which will not afflict Capitol Hill with smoke and stench. Duly inspired, and stuffed to surfeit with the gratitude which consists in hope of favors to come, official Washington arms itself with javelins and proceeds to throw them into the swaggering, bloated body of the Octopus.

As a sidelight on this particular case one might consider the almost affectionate indulgence with which the District Commissioners wink at the swarming automobiles which ravage every thoroughfare, filling the whole air with offensive smoke and distilling as they pass a malarious and penetrating perfume of gasoline. The amusing aspect of the case is to be found in the fact that neither smoke nor stench in the automobile is inevitable, but, on the contrary, easily preventable. Nevertheless, we contemplate with proper patience Washington's easy going submission to an all pervading nuisance, as compared with its noble protest against a strictly localized offense.

Is Constitutional Reform Possible in Russia?

The proceedings which followed the meeting of the new Duma in the Tauride Palace at St. Petersburg on March 5 were to some extent encouraging, because they evinced a desire on the part of the majority to work in unison with the sovereign and to avoid giving any pretext for dissolution. The sole approach to riotous demonstration came from the Ultra-Monarchists, who sit on the extreme right. The calm though resolute demeanor of the Constitutional Democrats and their allies justifies the hope that the second experiment in representative self-government will be more wisely conducted than was the first.

An analysis of the voting for President of the chamber bears witness to the total failure of Premier STOLYPIN's electoral campaign. The Monarchists—ninety-one in number—put forward a candidate of their own, and the Social Revolutionists, who occupy the extreme left, seem to have taken no part in the balloting as a body. On the other hand, not only the Constitutional Democrats, who owing to the accession of the Baltic Constitutionalists can now muster 117; the Polish Nationalists, who have agreed to cooperate with them on most questions, and the Octobrists and Peaceful Regenerationists (Progressives) of the Right Centre, but also all the members of the Group of Toil and a major part of the Social Democrats, who fill the benches on the left, combined to choose for President of the lower house FEONOR GOLOVIN, a man of distinguished family and of sturdy character, who has long been president of the Moscow Zemstvo and is therefore skilled in the management of deliberative assemblies. He is an old fashioned Liberal, who believes in the orderly and peaceful development of political institutions, and commands the respect of Reactionists and Radicals alike, so that ultimately his election was made unanimous. He can be counted on to preside with dignity and impartiality and to repress with equal severity disorderly outbreaks on the right or on the left extremities of the chamber.

That is something, but the crucial question has to do with the attitude which the new Duma will assume toward the Czar's Ministers. We are told that several conferences were held by the leaders of the majority for the purpose of deciding whether the demand for Ministerial accountability which wrecked the last Duma should not be waived temporarily, and provisional relations be established with the existing Cabinet. The decision reached was that no *modus vivendi* could be arranged

so long as Mr. STOLYPIN, whom they hold responsible for the withholding of amnesty and the application of martial law to many provinces, retains the Premiership. That their objection to the Premier is personal seems evident from the fact that they listened respectfully to the reading of the budget estimates for 1907 by Finance Minister KOKOVTSOFF and may be expected to discuss them in due time. Whether they will refuse to listen to the Premier or will confine themselves to receiving his suggestions in silence will be known soon after the session of the assembly is resumed.

Apparently it should be practicable for the Czar, without conceding the principle of Ministerial responsibility to the Duma, to select for his Prime Minister a man who would not be obnoxious individually to the people's representatives, and who could meet them on the same footing as that occupied by Chancellor VON BULOLOW in the Reichstag. Ministerial responsibility does not exist in the German Empire; nevertheless the popular branch of the national legislature finds itself capable of working in union with the sovereign's spokesman. To choose at least an endurable intermediary is certainly the course which NICHOLAS II. will pursue if he is sincere in his professed desire to carry out the reformatory decree of October 30, 1905, and if he realizes how fatal to future external loans would be a repudiation of his solemn promises.

Although a memorandum submitted to the Duma by the Minister of Finance appears to show that the revenue during 1906 exceeded the expenditure by more than \$15,000,000, no one conversant with the fiscal burdens that must be imposed during the coming year for the revival of Russia's navy and for even a partial solution of the agrarian problem can doubt that a new and large foreign loan will soon be asked for. It was on the strength of the embryonic Constitution conferred by the decree of October 30, 1905, that Count WITTE succeeded in borrowing about \$440,000,000. It is doubtful if one-tenth of that sum could be secured were the promise broken. That is why we take a less pessimistic view of the Russian situation than is taken in many quarters, and incline to think that the Czar may be no less anxious than are the sober minded members of the Duma to hit upon some means of accommodation.

A Promise of Bereavement.

Our latest advices from the grand old State of North Carolina are to the effect that a dire calamity impends upon the discerning and the cultivated elements of its population. The following announcement by the *Southern Christian Advocate* reveals the tragedy in all its harrowing nakedness:

"Hogs over near the good church Providence are acting queerly here recently, anyway. One of my grave, dignified stewards was telling me about it the other day."

"Brother M," said he, "a strange thing is happening over in our community. 'What in the world is it?' said I. 'Well,' replied my steward, 'it's the hogs. They are acting as I never saw them before. They are actually rubbing their tails off.'"

"You don't tell me—rubbing their tails off?"

"Steward," yes, sir, it's a fact. It seems it is some sort of a disease that peculiarly affects that part of the hog's anatomy, and he goes to a pine tree and rubs until the tail is excommunicated. We have more bottled hogs in my section than you can shake a stick at."

Here we perceive among the evil and distressing omens of the time the forecast of a great calamity. If this movement, originating in the neighborhood of "the good church Providence," be really the herald of a general dispensation, and if the hogs of our proud, our native land are to continue with the aid of pine trees to divest themselves as above described, what is to become of that finest and most succulent of all dishes, "pig tails and cabbage?"

The heart of the big white cabbage prepared by an expert and served in felicitous conjunction with properly assorted pig tails is a dish for Olympus itself. Had it been administered in feudal banquet halls some centuries ago the trenchermen would have been strengthened and sustained for feats such as the barons of that time do not appear to have so much as dreamed of. There are many good Southerners who confidently maintain to this day that had the Confederate armies, forty-five years ago, been plentifully fed on "pig tails with cabbage," three square times each twenty-four hours, there would have been no SHERMAN's march to the sea, Gettysburg would have had another name, and GRANT's thunder at the gates of Richmond would have resembled nothing so much as the sheet iron reverberations of "The Black Crook."

Where are the experts of the Department of Agriculture at this tremendous moment? Still squandering their solicitudes on bolls, peachblows, hollow horn, gypsy moths and feldspars?

Unreasonable New Yorkers.

The municipal authorities point out, most justly, that if every real estate owner would clear the thoroughfares in front of his holdings there would be no snow removal problem to vex the Street Cleaning Department. Every tradesman and occupier of a house, if he provided himself with a shovel and a dump cart, might gather up the snow, cart it to a dump, pay the fee exacted for the privilege of disposing of the load and get rid of it. Thus all the streets might be cleared, and the Commissioner would have more time to devote to plans for laying next summer's dust.

The suggestion is entirely reasonable and proper, but there is small hope of its adoption generally. New Yorkers are a peculiarly wilful and obstinate set. They pay high taxes, and actually feel that they should receive for their expenditure in midwinter some return besides essays on summer dust. It is extremely unlikely that any considerable number of citizens took the hint of the authorities and appeared on the street yesterday armed with shovels and brooms. Their reluctance to do the work that a city department is paid for doing is regrettable, but as it exists it must be recognized and dealt with.

This does not alter the fact that there

is scarcely a real estate owner in town who could not make a better job of snow removal than has been accomplished under the present management.

An Executive Bill of Attainder.

In a striking article in the *North American Review* upon the American system of constitutional government and tendency to meddle with it which is now so much in evidence, Mr. FREDERICK J. STIMSON of the Boston bar draws attention to what DANIEL WEBSTER called the noblest expression in the Massachusetts Constitution:

"The Executive shall never exercise the legislative and judicial powers, either of them; the judicial shall never exercise the legislative and executive powers, or either of them; to the end that it may be a government of laws, and not of men."

The Federal Constitution does not contain these explicit inhibitions, but they are implied and understood. But apparently they are not always understood. We quote again from Mr. STIMSON's article:

"A few months ago, the provision against bills of attainder—that is, condemnation for crime or forfeiture of civil rights without due process of law—would have seemed hardly necessary in America. Yet since then, in its present form, it has become a military device, so far that its constitutional right as Commander-in-Chief, we have seen our President dictate what a little else than an Executive bill of attainder—a thing which was hardly, if at all, attempted by the Stuart Kings."

Moreover, was it not a disregard of Article VIII, amending the Constitution which forbids the infliction of "cruel and unusual punishments?"

If the Hon. GEORGE BRUCE CORTELYOU makes his luncheon of a salmon sandwich, a bit of mince pie and a mug of half and half he has an interior strength which is more than sufficient for the demands of his place. A heroic meal, which shows that he too is no mollycoddle.

Indianapolis dispatches say that the Hon. CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS, the well known delegate collector, will conclude his tour of inspection through the spring and summer and will not fail to take his vacation on his farm in Uncle JOSEPH's Illinois territory. Mr. FAIRBANKS's agents are supposed to have done much for the prosperity of the colored race in the South, a subject in which he takes an interest worthy of his benevolent heart. The West and the Northwest will be canvassed. Buttermilk will flow in oceans. The neighbor of the stars is ready to come down if the country needs him.

We are going to make it warm for them (M. P.'s opponent to woman's suffrage).—CHRISTIAN FAIRBANKS, Indianapolis.

"Warm" is too cold a word for the relentless war of these ferocious campaigners. M. P.'s ought to be paid and have a competent life insurance if they are to be harried ruthlessly. And a "hobby" wages are mighty small for the bustling and scratching to which he is exposed.

Continuous, pumped cheering during good and bad play is almost universal and has no counterpart in the contests of real life. The most intense players hear it only at intervals. On the part of the crowd it is a tedious and utterly ineffective demonstration.—PRESIDENT ELZER.

Whether reformed football as played in 1906 was a gentlemanly game or not, concerning which the President of the United States and the president of Harvard seem to be at odds, it may be ventured that a man who thinks "organized cheering" is neither helpful nor admirable is not necessarily a mollycoddle, although he may be an undergraduate or an alumnus.

The Physical Force Argument Against Woman Suffrage.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: I have just read the reply of Miss Blackwell to the editorial in your issue of the 2nd inst. regarding the subject of woman suffrage. I am, of course, well aware that there never has been an instance of "all the men in a community voting one way and all the women the other." But to point this out is to miss the point which I tried to make and does not meet it.

Miss Blackwell does not attempt to deny what I pointed out as the probable result of the hypothetical case which she seems to be "reasonably" possible. Thus, on a priori grounds we are justified in expecting a law to be weak in proportion to the preponderance of female over male votes because the "own city women have often defeated bad candidates for the school boards and the men have never tried to install the defeated candidate for school board." This is the argument, for of course the male vote was distributed, and Miss Blackwell cannot prove that it was not pretty evenly distributed. Even were this not so there are plenty of ways to outvote the power of an elected official besides removing him by violence. Physical force has a passive as well as an active value. This is clearly seen in Kansas, where the advocates of woman suffrage are often put to flight by the physical force of the men. It is rather more of a farce than in Maine, judging from the comparative ease with which drinks can be bought in the two States.

Even where woman suffrage does not exist such laws are largely the result of female agitation, and they are of all laws the worst enforced. They are a sop to quiet certain pestilent female societies, and are often put in the way of their enforcement by the very bodies which enact them. Clearly, then, the argument from physical force is, however old, valid.

J. C. M.
NEW YORK, March 6.

The Message of the Coin.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: More than a century ago Alexander Hamilton, then Secretary of the Treasury, was asked to express an opinion on coin designs. In a report to the House of Representatives of the United States on the establishment of a mint, he said: "The designs of the coins are far from being matters of indifference, as they may be made the vehicles of useful impressions. They ought therefore to be emblematical, but without losing sight of simplicity."

A plain citizen and member of the prosaic legal profession may perhaps be permitted to suggest that the only impression conveyed by the heads which form the devices on the obverse of our present coins is that the typical American and the American Indian are in a state of mental decay—in fact, almost totally devoid of intellect. This is enough to make the American eagle on the reverse strike, and the "Liberty Bell" on the obverse, a noble endeavor prove the falsity of the first idea, while the noble expression of the poetic and imaginative American Indian has become proverbial.

The present design does not, but debate about it, which falls of its lofty mission when it ignores the intellectual and the spiritual.

S. WHITNEY DUNSCOMB, JR.
NEW YORK, March 4.

Prof. S. Bernhardt's First Lecture.

From the London Globe.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt has made her debut as professor of theatrical declamation at the Conservatoire in Paris under the name of Bernhardtine. Her students were seated around her. The men kissed her hand, the women presented her with violets, and then she seated herself in her professorial chair, while some dozen or more young ladies and young fellows regaled her with their best morceaux in their best manner. The great Sarah inhaled her violets, but spoke never a word, and left when the recitations ended. She had evidently, however, been thinking in silence, for she permitted it to be known afterwards that her impressions were of the best, that she had already discussed two or three "stays" of the future, and that she looks forward to doing good work at the Conservatoire.

Predictions of Moore.

Kaicker—What do you think of the weather report?

Bocker—I think they have brain storms.

Shrinking From Physical Pain.

Kaicker—Is he a mollycoddle?

Bocker—Yes, he won't eat his wife's biscuits.

CANADA'S BOOK ON THE SELKIRKS.

The excellent and authoritative book on the Selkirk Range of Canada, written by A. O. Wheeler of the Dominion Geological Survey and handsomely produced by the Government, was printed more than a year ago, but the tourists of the coming season will be the first to derive benefit from it. The accompanying maps, which fill a portfolio, are the result of two years surveying and contain the quintessence of the information desired by tourists, but they were not issued till October last, and the visitors to the Canadian Alps next summer will be the first to profit by them.

The book is a fine product, but it will be left at the hotels for reference. It is a large octavo of nearly 300 pages, printed on sized paper and with many beautiful illustrations, and is as heavy as lead. It will not find favor as a part of the outfit of mountain climbing excursions, but the gist of its rich stores of information will be at the service of the throng of mountain visitors in pocket guide books. The third edition of the best Canadian guide book, published in Germany, has just reached this country with the most pregnant information in the big book boiled down and the finest things in the maps reproduced in the best German cartographic manner. The Selkirk Range, with its many large maps will fill in the details and will be reserved for perusal on the hotel verandas before and after the excursions.

What is it that has made the Selkirk a Mecca for summer mountaineers, that is bringing a constantly growing crowd of tourists from all over the world, which packed the enlarged hotels last summer and left an overflow to live in sidetracked sleeping cars?

The reason is that the Selkirk, having much larger precipitation than the neighboring Rockies, has scores of magnificent lakes and snow-covered mountains, and these mountains unfold in their arms vast fields of snow and great glaciers. These are not to be found in the Rocky Mountains within convenient reach of the Canadian railroad. In the number, the purity and beauty and the pleasing configuration of the glaciers the Selkirk are able to hold their own with the better known systems of the Swiss, the Austrian and Italian Alps, so that their attractions rival those of any other glacier regions of the world that are easily accessible to tourists. The beautiful Selkirk are not much more than 15,000 feet above sea level. The Swiss Alps are more difficult and dangerous of ascent, and the average tourist in the Selkirk has more opportunities for using his own legs to carry him to the most glorious points of view and to plume himself as a mountaineer.

But there are also plenty of climbs to test the mettle of first rate mountaineers and a few venturesome expeditions that require professional Swiss guides who have been trained to render, at \$5 a day, the same kind of service that they give among their home mountains. The Canadian Alps have many attractions that cannot be found in Switzerland and still possess the preeminent charm of not being overdone. Their enormous extent will for many years provide new fields for exploration and travel.

This book and its maps show the results that have been accomplished by two years of surveying. Tourists felt the need of accurate maps and reliable information, and the survey was especially intended to supply the data required to make the beautiful region most accessible and comfortable as a pleasure resort. The ground has been thoroughly covered between Beavermouth and Revelstoke from the east to the west slope of the Selkirk. A continuous zone has been topographically surveyed on both sides of the railroad, and from the base thus formed the work can be expanded in any required direction.

The volume is filled with interest for all who love snow mountains. The story of the survey itself is excellent reading, for it was a survey by photography, which involved the climbing of scores of mountains so that the camera might faithfully record the lay of the land. But the larger part of it is given to the romantic story of the Selkirk, their discoverers, adventures of the pioneers in these wonderful wilds, the building of the railroad, the history of mountain-seeing here before and after the introduction of Swiss guides, the natural history, trails, bridle paths, cabins, outfitting and many other matters of interest.

It is a book that will whet the desire of its readers to see for themselves. It will help them when they are on the ground, deepen their impressions of what they see, and will clear up many perplexities which they will not quite unravel when they stand amid this magnificent complex of mountains, snowfields and glaciers.

Don't Want to Eat With Westerners.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Most New Yorkers, that is, the vast majority, would be pleased to eat with the West, but the West, promoters of both sexes, horse-racing experts and buyers and their wives from the West, who firmly believe that to dine at such places is to be "at the top."

The price "cuts no ice" with such as—nor the quality. With the Wall Street and "racetrack" "plungers" it is easy come, easy go; the "promoter" puts a "hold front" on the horse-racing chap is after "pointers" and bets, while the folks from the West don't understand evening togs and essay to cut a bit of a spurge on the expense money which they bring from the farm at home.

Won't some clean, skilful, decent Swiss or Frenchman open a place in a handy part of uptown and teetotally bar out everybody living west, south, east or north of the city? The charges are moderate, the "plungers" the promoters and the horse-racing fellows won't come around, and we'll have at least one place to go after the theatre where a man can sit well on a two dollar bill and a twenty-five cent "tip" as in "ye olden time," and not so very long ago at that.

"Why continue to make millionaires out of a lot of Wests and often incidentally a few Easts and head waiters at the added cost of our self-respect?"

NEW YORK, March 6. MANHATTAN.

Dissecting a Jest.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: The clipping reprinted in THE SUN on February 24 and credited to T. P. O., wherein a telegram originally rendered "Send me this box" is finally rendered by the telegraph operator as "Send me this box." It is simply out of the question as far as the telegraph operator is concerned, for there is no similarity whatever in the Morse code between "a" in send and "t" in send. The code for "a" is three dots (.), and for "t" a long dash (—). In box the "x" would sound as "— . . . —" and "b" as "— . . . —" so if such an error was really made it was by the sending operator, and not by the telegraph operator. The highest and best copies of a telegram as filed in Erie, Pa., some years ago and as received and delivered in Buffalo: "Mary arrived A. M. John met her."

The above "telegrapher's bull" was credited to a now well known and popular superintendent of telegraph.

BROOKLYN, March 5. OPERATOR.

The Teachers' Bill Attacked.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: The "Teachers' bill" should be known as "The Upper Ten or Superior Teachers' bill," as the good things or plums therein are divided among the women principals, heads of departments and upper grammar teachers.

The miners of teachers who do the digging or hauling of the ore in the rough state, in order that it may be capable of retaining the brilliant polish given by the refiners, are expected to pass the same tests of culture and training.

If it be such as this, the refiners and the highest teachers will make a rush for the upper grade, and the inferior will remain to care for the little ones. What will the school system do then?

The majority of culture and training teachers who are the backbone of the system have been sadly and unjustly lost sight of in the mad rush of the few.

TRACHERS OF THE L. A.
BROOKLYN, March 5.

NEW WAR EQUIPMENT.

Continental Nations Experimenting With Automobiles.

In the presence of the French Minister of War and a Commissioner appointed by him experiments with a military automobile were recently carried out on Mont Valerien. The automobile has a revolving turret in which a machine gun is mounted. There are two men in the turret, one to turn it and the other to work the machine gun. The chauffeur is entirely hidden and fully protected in his seat. The automobile weighs 3,000 pounds, has a motor of 35 horse-power and a speed of thirty miles an hour. The trials were very satisfactory, the car taking the glacial of the fort as well as hard roads and ditches with great ease.

At the recent automobile exposition in Berlin there was exhibited an automobile with a gun of a centimetre calibre (about two inches). The armor protection was only three millimetres thick. This, although sufficient to resist an occasional shot from pistols or small subdivisions at from 200 to 250 yards, is not adequate protection against modern infantry fire at short range, and at least nine millimetres will be required. The calibre of the piece is also too small, since only time fuse firing can be used, and for the small (4.4 pound) shell of this gun observation is too difficult, while the effect of the fragments of explosion is also inadequate. It will be too late to make these alterations, but the slight on account of the narrow slit provided: the field is only 30 degrees on each side of the normal.

For these reasons other means of fighting balloons have been proposed. The hoitzer appears to be out of the question because it could not be used for the longer ranges and higher trajectories. Even at 1,300 yards height and 2,200 yards range an elevation of 37 degrees would be required, and the limit of the hoitzer is 45 degrees elevation.

The circumstances appear to demand a flat trajectory long gun with a projectile weighing about nine pounds, or a calibre of about 2.5 inches, having a high muzzle velocity, a recoil arrangement, and a light weight. The projectile should be of comparatively light weight. The projectile should be a combined shell and shrapnel, like the Ehrhardt projectiles of recent make, with a reliable time fuse. The gun should be armored to resist small caliber snipers, and should be capable of being used as a light field piece for other purposes besides fighting balloons.

A gun like that above described is now being made in the Krupp works. Its calibre is 2.46 inches and it is mounted on a recoil carriage allowing an elevation of 60 degrees. The projectile weighs 9.44 pounds (fixed ammunition, 13 pounds) and the muzzle velocity is 1,970 foot seconds, the weight of the gun being 1,000 pounds. The gun is mounted on a breechlock in order to increase the rapidity of the fire.

Colonel Fullerton, a noted expert of the British service, believes that in the next great war the flying machines will be used, with three different objects in view: to fight the enemy's flying machines, to attack ships and assault land forces.

They should be armed, he proposes, with a light gun for use against the enemy's flying machines and a gun flamer, a heavy shell for use against ships and troops. The cost of these machines would not exceed that of automobiles.

The amount of field artillery ammunition fired away on the days of actual battle in the Russo-Japanese war was exceeded all predictions. On the Shaho, October 12-14, 1904, each gun of the Thirty-fifth Division fired on an average 834 rounds; the greatest number in one day, on October 14, was 361 rounds. On the Japanese side, the First and Third Siberian Corps fired 420 shots from each piece on each of two battle days. The Second Battery of the East Siberian Artillery Brigade, however, has the record, firing at Tashitash on July 24, 1905, 500 shots from each of 32 pieces to the piece. No official records of the Japanese artillery are available, although it is reported that on the Shaho several batteries fired as many as 200 shots per piece. The great question to-day for the military world to determine is how the enormous supply of ammunition can be provided for the field and made available in battle.

CLEAN MILK.

One Practical Reason Why the Producers Cannot Deliver It.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: It seems curious that in the discussion of the clean milk problem no one has stumbled on one of the most practical reasons why the producers do not produce milk clean enough to satisfy the requirements of the Health Department, why inspectors cannot compel him to, and why, at present at least, pasteurization is the only safe safeguard.

Everybody who knows about the business agrees that clean milk cannot be produced at a profit by the farmer at less than five or six cents a quart. Most of the dairies at present produce milk at from 3 to 4 cents a quart. The price of feeds has advanced one-third in the last two years.

The general price fixed by the Milk Exchange (an association of the larger dealers in this city) they are very large and very influential, and the price of milk is fixed at what it will go lower as the summer advances and the business grows livelier. Cannot we get rid of the controlling power in the matter of the exchange, and give to the farmer a fair price for his milk, and thus induce him to produce clean milk?

If our farmers could collect five cents for each quart of clean milk they would produce within 200 miles of New York city enough milk to supply the city with clean milk of excellent quality delivered every morning not more than twenty-four, not thirty-six hours old, after a journey of half the distance it now travels.

Until that time arrives pasteurization seems to be the only safe safeguard.

NEW YORK, March 6. C. JOHNSON.

England and the United States.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Recently I overheard a conversation between two old diplomatists noted for their successful management of affairs and the high esteem in which they were held by all who knew them. They had been discussing the relations of England with the United States. Said one to the other: